

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended, claims 5-7 are added, and claims 2-3 are cancelled. This leaves claims 1 and 4-7 pending in the application, with claim 1 being independent.

As shown in Fig. 4, the present invention is a mounting bracket for a high voltage surge arrestor. The bracket has a main body 124 with a first end that is securable to surge arrestor and a second end that is securable to a bracket 16 (not shown in Fig. 4) of a power distribution system. The main body 124 has a plurality of weathersheds 152, and has a fastening hole 156 for receiving a fastener for attaching the second end of the main body 124 to the power distribution system bracket. The main body 124 includes an inner rigid rod 180 that extends substantially the entire length of the main body. The rigid rod 180 has a fastening hole 184 that is aligned with the fastening hole 156 of the main body.

The inner rigid rod provides additional benefits to the support bracket. The mounting bracket must provide sufficient strength to support the surge arrestor. By forming the inner rigid rod separately, it can be made of different material than the remainder of the main bracket. For example, the inner rigid rod can be made of a different strength of plastic or can be made of fiberglass. The use of different materials facilitates tailoring the strength of the bracket to the necessary strength, without the need for changing the material or shape of the main body. The use of an inner rod also facilitates the manufacturing process.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,237,482 to Osterhout et al. (“the Osterhout patent”) and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Osterhout patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,033 to Pazdirek (“the Pazdirek patent”). The rejections are respectfully traversed

because neither the Osterhout patent or the Pazdirek patent, alone or in combination, discloses the recited limitations of amended claim 1.

The Osterhout patent discloses a mounting bracket 21 for an arrester 1 with a plurality of weather sheds 19A. An end of mounting bracket 21 includes a fastening hole for receiving a fastener 23, as seen Figure 1. The Pazdirek patent discloses an insulator 10 having a body 20 formed of strands of resin coated glass fibers wound between bushings 50, 60 and 70 forming a primary layer 24 of resin coated fibers, as seen in Figure 2.

Contrary to the Office Action, the Pazdirek patent does not disclose a separate inner fiberglass rod in a bracket. Instead, the Pazdirek patent discloses enclosing an insulator body formed of fiberglass strands. A combination of the Osterhout patent and the Pazdirek patent would therefore result in the Osterhout patent mounting bracket 21 being formed entirely of fiberglass strands. Consequently, the combination of the Osterhout patent and the Pazdirek patent would not teach the claimed invention, particularly a rigid rod disposed within the main body of a bracket. Moreover, neither the Osterhout patent nor the Pazdirek patent teaches aligning fastener holes of a bracket and an inner rod for receiving a fastener, as recited by amended claim 1.

Claims 4-7, being dependent upon claim 1, are also allowable for the above reasons. Moreover, these dependent claims recite additional features that further distinguish them from the prior art. For example, claim 5 recites that the inner rigid rod is a single, unitary member, as opposed to the multiple fiberglass strands of the Pazdirek patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 4-7 are allowable over the prior art of record. Prompt and favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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